



Ghana: Accra, Elmina & Kumasi

Your 9-day journey begins in Accra, the Ghanaian capital which sits on the Gulf of Guinea. Get to know this busy city that blends colonial fortifications and mansions with bustling markets and beaches. A city tour will take you from the 17th-century colonial castle of Christiansborg to Independence Square, where the Black Star monument celebrates the nation's independence. At the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, you'll learn about the nation's first president, before ending your day at the Arts Centre, where you'll get to practice your bargaining skills as you shop for local arts and crafts.

Head down the coast to Kakum National Park, home to one of the last rainforests in West Africa. Stroll along the canopy walkway to see butterflies, hornbills, and monkeys in the trees. After descending to the earth, continue to Cape Coast to learn about the infamous slave history of the region. You'll visit Cape Coast Castle, a 17th-century Swedish fortification, before continuing to Elmina to see the white-washed Portuguese castle of Elmina. You'll continue exploring the colonial past with a walk up Jago Hill to Fort Saint Jago, which helped the Dutch assault Portuguese fortifications in the region.

Continue your journey along the coast and reach the Slave River near Assin Manso, where slaves were transported to ships along the gulf. Reach Kumasi, the former centre of the Ashanti Kingdom, which ruled the region in previous centuries. Explore the city and visit the Manhyia Palace Museum to learn more about this important kingdom and its legacy across the country.

You'll also learn about the Ashanti's cultural legacy with visits to three craft villages where you can shop for local fabrics and textiles in addition to learning about unique artistic practices.

Turn back towards Accra and stop at a Besease Shrine in the town of Eljisu, where you can visit 10 shrines dedicated to different spirits and gain valuable insight into the ancestral religious traditions of the area. Reach Accra, where you'll spend your final two nights.

On your final full day, head into the Volta Region to take part in a traditional naming ceremony, joining a musical celebration along with local elders and villagers.

At the end of your stay, head to the airport to connect back home.





Day 1 - Accra: Akwaaba (Welcome)! Upon arrival at Accra International Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to relax and explore on your own.

Day 2 - Accra. Embark on a sightseeing tour of Accra; see Christiansborg Castle in Osu (known as Fort Christiansborg). Visit the W. E. B. Dubois Centre for Pan African Culture, Independence/ Black Star Square with its many monuments dedicated to Ghana's independence struggles including the Independence Arch and Black Star Gate. Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park, dedicated to prominent Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah. End your tour at the Arts Centre where you will can use your bargaining skills to shop from an open-air market for artefacts from Ghana and West Africa . . .

Day 3 - Accra to Kakum National Park to Cape Coast. Drive to Kakum National Park, one of West Africa's surviving tropical rain forests. Kakum most popular attraction is the Canopy walkway made up of seven bridges 100 feet above the forest floor. Tour the infamous Forts, Castles, and Slave Dungeons of Ghana. Visit the Cape Coast Castle, which was built in 1653. This castle also houses the West African Historical Museum established by the Smithsonian Institute in collaboration with the Ghanaian Government.

Day 4 - Elmina Castle & Elmina Walking Tour. Visit to the Elmina Castle. Also known as St. George's Castle, Elmina Castle was the first European structure built in Sub - Saharan Africa. After a break for lunch you will embark on a guided walking tour of Elmina, which was the first point of European contact in Sub-Saharan Africa and was once the most cosmopolitan city in Tropical Africa. Meet the fishermen and fishmongers in the village who will demonstrate the various stages of smoking the fish in earthenware ovens.

Day 5 - Elmina to Slave River - Kumasi. Drive towards Kumasi, the seat of the Ashanti Empire to explore the legends of the famous Ashanti people. Stop in the town of Assin Manso, visit the site of "Donkor Nsuo", the former Slave River and market, as well as the final transit point for a large number of enslaved Africans. This is the final resting place for two ancestors whose mortal remains were returned from the USA and Jamaica and re-interred. In Kumasi you will visit the Manhyia Palace Museum and explore legacies of the Ashanti kingdom. Visit the famous Kejetia market, the National Cultural Centre featuring the Prempeh II Jubilee Museum, and studios of the brass makers, potters, and batik makers.

Day 6 - Ashanti Craft Villages. Enjoy visits to three craft villages and see how African crafts are made and buy directly from the artisans. First up is Ahwiaa, a village noted for their woodcarvings along with other handicrafts. Next Ntonso, the home of Adinkra cloth and see it made from scratch. The Adinkra was originally only worn Ashanti Region for funerals and made primarily in black or brown, however, nowadays it is made in various colors. Last stop of the day is Bonwire, the Kente weaving village; see how the colorful fabrics are made.

Day 7- Kumasi to Besease Shrine to Accra. Depart for Accra. En route, stop at the Besease shrine and world heritage site located near the town of Ejisu. Observe the unique architecture and experience the mode of ancestral worship to the ancient gods before continuing back to Accra.

Day 8- Living Heritage Ceremony. Depart Accra on a scenic drive to a beautiful village located in the Volta Region and pay a courtesy call on the Chief and elders before participating in a traditional Ghanaian naming ceremony . . .

Day 9 - Depart. Another delicious breakfast at your hotel this morning followed by time at leisure. Later, you are transferred to the airport in time for your onward flight.

Starting Price: \$4,213.00 per person double occupancy

Request full details for this package: glenda@travelwithserenity.net